

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-10-2007

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Northern New Mexico Network SB 256

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$170.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		\$2.6		\$2.6	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 256 appropriates \$170 thousand from the general fund for expenditure in FY08 to Public Education department for the Northern New Mexico Network for math and science programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$170 thousand contained in Senate Bill 256 is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

The LFC remains concerned with funding initiatives outside of the funding formula as it tends to dis-equalize school funding and diverts funding away from core educational needs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Northern New Mexico Network for rural education is a collaborative cooperative of 28 rural school districts, organized for improvement quality of life in rural northern New Mexico. In the past the network received \$4.7 million for a rural systemic initiative (RSI) funded by the National Science Foundation. This initiative featured math and science specialists reviewing the needs of individual districts, schools and teachers, in order to plan interventions to address those specific needs. The funds appropriated in Senate Bill 256 would be used to support two math and science specialists.

The network has since collaborated with the Mathematically Connected Communities (MC2) project at New Mexico State University. This project received funds through the department as part of a federally-funded Math and Science Partnership (MSP) program. The network also received \$300 thousand for FY07 from the department's Summer Math and Reading institutes to continue programming.

The Northern New Mexico Network was organized to aggregate the concerns of small, rural school districts of Northern New Mexico. These districts had been poorly represented in policymaking by the department. The rural groups have since organized to pursue school improvement.

Other network initiatives and collaborative efforts include:

- A multi-year collaborative with the Panasonic Foundation
- A recent partnership with the Los Alamos National Labs Outreach Office
- A Northwest Evaluation Association's level testing pilot program

Member school districts are Chama, Clayton, Cuba, Des Moines, Dulce, Espanola, Grants, Jemez Mountain, Jemez Valley, Las Vegas City, Los Alamos, Mesa Vista, Mora, Pecos, Penasco, Pojoaque, Questa, Santa Rosa, Springer, Taos, Wagon Mound, West Las Vegas and Raton.

PD/mt